What is claimed is:

1. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element to output an image signal of the image of the subject and a detecting section to detect a focusing point of the lens based on the image signal; and

a light measuring section to measure a luminance of the subject and to output a luminance signal;

wherein the image capturing focusing section changes the scanning range of the lens in accordance with the luminance signal measured by the light measuring section.

2. The electronic still camera of claim 1, wherein when the luminance of the subject represented by the luminance signal is lower than a predetermined luminance level, the image capturing focusing section determines the focusing point of the lens based on the distance signal without

detecting the focusing point of the lens based on the image signal.

3. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element to output an image signal of the image of the subject and a detecting section to detect a focusing point of the lens based on the image signal;

a light measuring section to measure a luminance of the subject and to output a luminance signal; and

a strobe section having a selectable strobe mode to emit strobe light in response to a release operation;

wherein the image capturing focusing section limits the scanning range of the lens within a range in which the strobe light effectively reaches when the luminance of the subject represented by the luminance signal is lower than a predetermined luminance level and the strobe mode of the strobe section is selected.

4. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element having an image capturing area to receive the image from the lens and outputting an image signal of the image and a detecting section to detect a focusing point;

wherein the image capturing focusing section sets an image monitoring area smaller than the image capturing area in the image capturing area and the detecting section detects the focusing point of the lens based on an image monitoring signal from the image monitoring area, and

wherein the image capturing focusing section changes at least one of an area and a position of the image monitoring area based on the distance signal.

5. The electronic still camera of claim 4, further comprising:

an optical finder through which a photographer looks the subject;

wherein the image capturing focusing section changes the position of the image monitoring area based on parallax of the optical finder corresponding to the distance to the subject.

6. The electronic still camera of claim 4, wherein the lens is a zoom lens and the image capturing focusing section changes the position of the image monitoring area based on a focal length of the zoom lens.

7. The electronic still camera of claim 4, further comprising:

an optical finder through which a photographer looks the subject; and

a detector to detect whether a photographer looks the optical finer;

wherein the image capturing focusing section changes the position of the image monitoring area when the detector detects the photographer looking the optical finer.

8. The electronic still camera of claim 4, further comprising:

a display to indicate the image of the subject based on the image signal from the image capturing element,

wherein the image capturing focusing section does not change the position of the image monitoring area regardless of a value of the distance signal when the display indicates the image of the subject.

9. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element having an image capturing area to receive the image from the lens and outputting an image signal of the image and a detecting section to detect a focusing point;

wherein the image capturing focusing section sets an image monitoring area smaller than the image capturing area in the image capturing area and the detecting section detects the focusing point of the lens based on an image monitoring signal from the image monitoring area, and

wherein the lens is a zoom lens and the image capturing focusing section changes an area of the image monitoring area based on the distance signal and a position of the zoom lens.

10. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to emit a detection beam, to receive the detection beam reflected from the subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element having an image capturing area to receive the image from the lens and outputting an image signal of the image and a detecting section to detect a focusing point;

wherein the image capturing focusing section sets an image monitoring area smaller than the image capturing area in the image capturing area and the detecting section detects the focusing point of the lens based on an image monitoring signal from the image monitoring area, and

wherein the lens is a zoom lens and the image capturing focusing section changes the scanning range of the lens based on the distance signal and a position of the zoom lens.

11. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal; and

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element to output an image signal of the image of the subject and a detecting section to detect a focusing point of the lens based on the image signal;

wherein the image capturing focusing section obtains an evaluation value for a sharpness of the image of the subject received by the image capturing element based on the image signal and limits the scanning range to a narrower range.

12. The electronic still camera of claim 11, wherein the mage capturing focusing section determines the focusing point of the lens based on only the distance signal when the evaluation value is lower than a predetermined value.

13. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to output a distance signal corresponding to a distance to the subject by receiving a detection beam from the subject; and

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element

having an image capturing area to receive the image from the lens and outputting an image signal of the image and a detecting section to detect a focusing point;

wherein the image capturing focusing section expands the scanning range when an amount of the detection beam is lower than a predetermined value.

14. An electronic still camera, comprising:

a lens to form an image of a subject;

a distant measuring section to measure a distance to a subject and to output a distance signal;

an image capturing focusing section having a driving section to shift the lens within a scanning range determined based on the distance signal, an image capturing element to output an image signal of the image of the subject and a detecting section to detect a focusing point of the lens based on the image signal;

a light measuring section to measure a luminance of the subject and to output a luminance signal; and

a strobe section to emit strobe light in response to a release operation;

wherein the strobe section compares the distance measured by the distant measuring section and a distance corresponding to the focusing point detected by the image

capturing focusing section and determines an amount of the strobe light based on a shorter distance.